

AN UNUSUAL NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF HECALINE LEAFHOPPER FROM VENEZUELA (HOMOPTERA: CICADELLIDAE)^{1,2}

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ABSTRACT: A new genus and species, *Acrolithus brevis*, are described from the Páramo de Guaramacal in Venezuela. The female is brachypterous, which is quite unusual among the known members of South American Hecalini.

A new species of Hecalini has been collected which cannot be placed in any of the genera known in South America (Linnavuori 1957, 1959). It is described and placed in a new genus, *Acrolithus*, which appears to be more closely related to *Egenus* Oman than to any of the other known genera.

Acrolithus, gen. n.

Body flattened, male relatively short, female elongate. Head produced, anterior margin carinate. Ocelli near lateral margin about twice width from eyes (Figs. 1 & 2). Face convex and greatly swollen (Fig. 3). Head wider and longer than pronotum. Male forewing nearly normal length leaving only the tip of the abdomen exposed, venation normal, with two antepical cells, four apical cells and two claval veins with a crossvein between them (Fig. 4). Female forewing brachypterous leaving several abdominal segments exposed, venation reduced and not well differentiated. Color generally grayish brown. Type species *Acrolithus brevis*, n. sp.

This genus, based on the type species, appears to be closely related to *Egenus* Oman in that they both have swollen faces (Figs. 3, 7). However, the male genitalia are quite different from any known hecaline species. The female is brachypterous, which is only known at present in the genus *Hecullus* Oman, and represents a new group within the Hecalini.

Acrolithus brevis, n. sp.

(Figures 1-4, 9-13)

Length: Male 3.95-4.15 mm.; Female 5.7-5.95 mm.

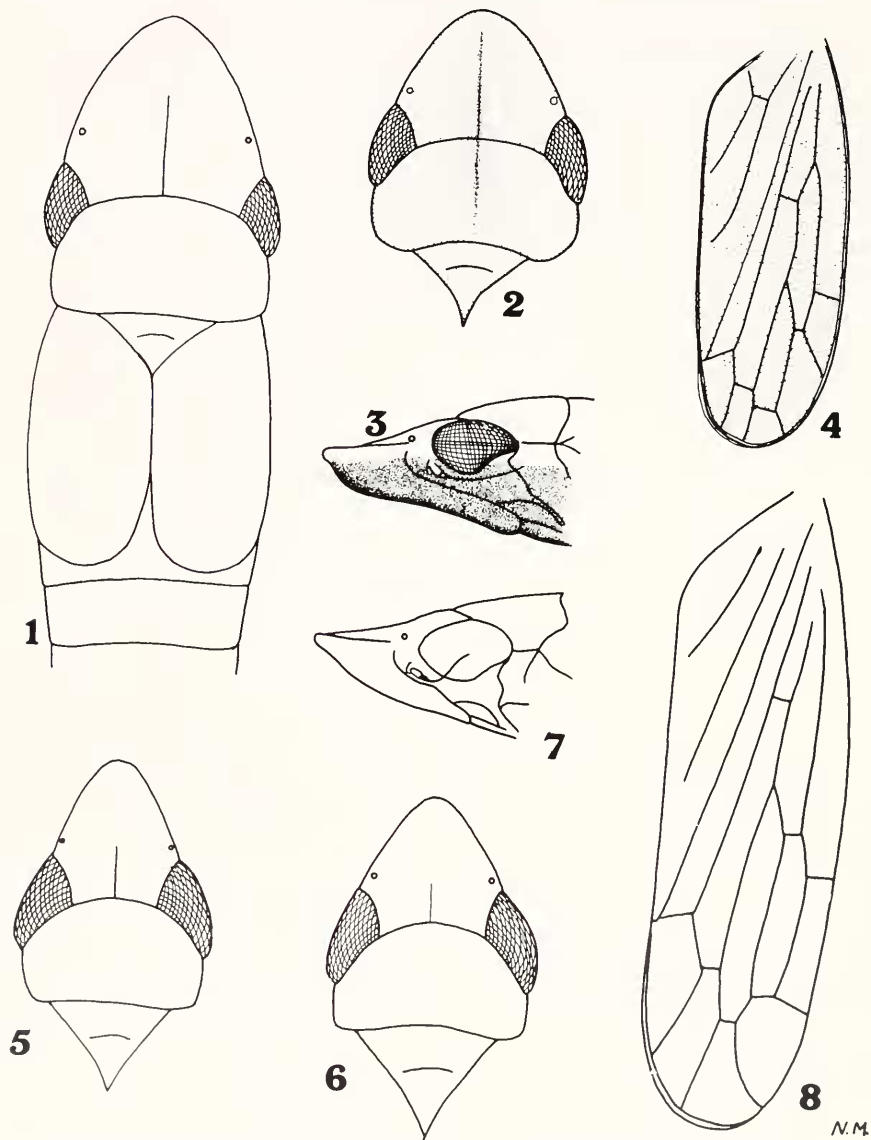
Color: Male grayish brown, median line of head and pronotum usually with a darker stripe. Ventral side darker, median part of face, coxa, femora, and abdomen black. Lateral margins of thorax, abdomen and tarsi dark brown. Female dark yellowish brown, with ventral side darker brown.

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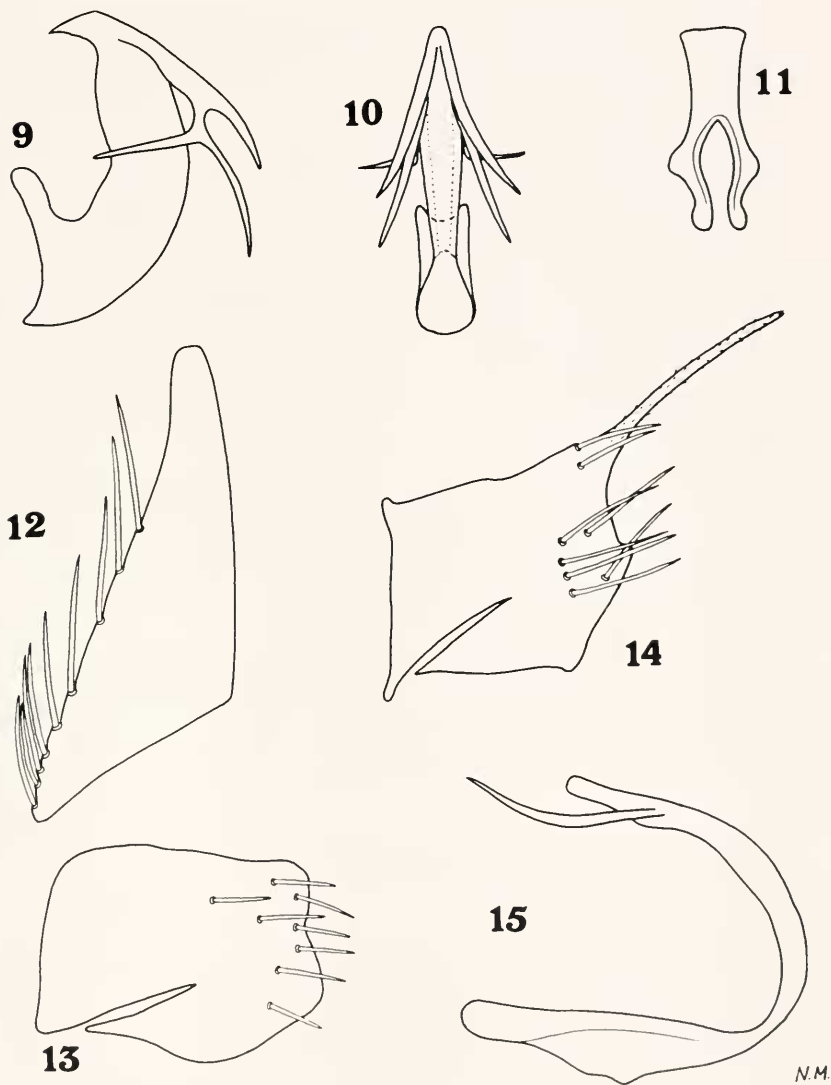
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Figures 1-8. *Acrolithus brevis* n. sp. 1. Dorsal aspect of female, 2. Dorsal aspect of head, pronotum and scutellum of male, 3. Lateral aspect of head and prothorax of male, 4. Forewing of male. Figures 5-8. *Egenus gracillimus* Linnavuori & DeLong. 5. Dorsal aspect of head, pronotum and scutellum of male, 6. Dorsal aspect of head, pronotum and scutellum of female, 7. Lateral aspect of head and pronotum of female, 8. Forewing of female.



Figures 9-15. *Acrolithus brevis* n. sp. 9. Lateral aspect of aedeagus. 10. Posterior aspect of aedeagus. 11. Dorsal aspect of connective. 12. Ventral aspect of genital plate. 13. Lateral aspect of pygofer. Figures 14-15. *Egenus gracillimus* Linnavouri & DeLong. 14. Lateral aspect of pygofer. 15. Lateral aspect of aedeagus.

Head produced, much longer in middle than next to eyes, wider than pronotum. Face swollen and convex. Pronotum with lateral margins carinate. Spinulation of fore tibia 3 + 3, hind femur 2 + 2 + 1. Forewing normal in male, with two anteapical cells and two claval veins; brachypterous in female.

Male genitalia: Pygofer truncate at apex with several macrosetae. Plate triangular, about ten macrosetae along outer lateral edge. Aedeagus stout, laterally flattened with two anteapical ventrally produced processes which are branched so that each process has three spines (Figs. 9-10). Connective stout, Y-shaped. Style small, hooked at apex.

Female genitalia: Ovipositor short, extending only slightly beyond pygofer. Seventh sternum with posterior margin evenly convex.

Holotype male: Páramo de Guaramacat, near Boconó, Turjillo, Venezuela, 2900 m., May 22, 1985. Paul S. Cwikla. Paratypes: 1 female, same data as holotype; 1 male, 1 female, same locality, 2850 m., June 12, 1986, Paul H. Freytag and Marco A. Gaiani. The holotype and the first paratype in the Ohio State University Collection, and the other two paratypes in the University of Kentucky Collection. One other male is on hand from the Páramo de Cristilina, Turjillo, Venezuela, 2800 m., June 14, 1986, R.J. Barney, in the University of Kentucky Collection. A female immature collected with the pair in 1986 is also in the University of Kentucky Collection.

The pygofer is of a normal type (Fig. 13), not with a long process as in *Egenus* (Fig. 14). Also, the aedeagus is short and stout (Fig. 9), while most other genera have an aedeagus long and strap-like as in *Egenus* (Fig. 15). This species occurs at very high altitudes, above 2800 meters, while other south American species appear to occur at much lower elevations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

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